

## Residential Hazardous Waste Use, Storage, and Disposal





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There are a variety of hazardous materials routinely used in and around our homes including chemical cleaners, pesticides, paints, solvents, lighter fluid, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid and other automotive products, wood preservatives and even batteries from our electronic equipment.


Improper disposal and failure to keep hazardous products from rainwater contact may cause surface and groundwater pollution. With so many hazardous compounds present in thousands of households in King County, the cumulative adverse effects of poor usage, storage and disposal practices are potentially severe to our environmental health.

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

**The following best management practices (BMPs) or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required when using or storing hazardous wastes at your home.**

-  Store all hazardous materials inside a building or shed or under cover. Do not expose hazardous materials to rainwater that can transport hazardous pollutants to surface and groundwater.
-  Use products only as specified on labeling directions.
-  Dispose of and recycle hazardous wastes through the local Household Hazardous Waste Program or other recycling programs or vendors, or carefully follow disposal directions on containers of chemicals.
-  Do not allow hazardous chemicals to be discharged or dumped into storm drainage systems or on to the ground.

### **OTHER OPTIONS AND TIPS**

-  Recycle as much as possible. Someone else may be able to use leftover paints, finishes, cleaning materials, building materials, etc. Contact a neighbor, friend, school, church, or community group to see if your left

over materials can be used. The King County Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) is a good resource for finding uses for your left over materials. Call or send email to IMEX at 206-296-4899 or [imex@metrokc.gov](mailto:imex@metrokc.gov), respectively. Consult the IMEX Web site for more information, at <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/imex>.

King County Solid Waste provides waste disposal and recycling events on a regular basis at no cost to King County residents. For more information regarding proper household hazardous waste disposal, please contact the Hazards Line at 206-296-4692. The Hazards Line can also provide schedule information for the Wastemobile.

Small businesses needing assistance with hazardous wastes should call the Business Waste Line at 206-296-3976.

The Wastemobile Home Page is:  
<http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/wastemobile>



Use the least toxic product available.

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For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.